

HR 1529

Defense STRONG Act

Congress: 112 (2011–2013, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Apr 13, 2011

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel. (May 18, 2011)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/house-bill/1529>

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Party: Democratic • **State:** MA • **Chamber:** House

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| Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9] | D · TN | | Jul 7, 2011 |
| Rep. Schilling, Robert T. [R-IL-17] | R · IL | | Nov 3, 2011 |
| Rep. Hochul, Kathleen C. [D-NY-26] | D · NY | | Dec 14, 2011 |
| Rep. Michaud, Michael H. [D-ME-2] | D · ME | | Sep 12, 2012 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|--------------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Armed Services Committee | House | Referred to | May 18, 2011 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 112 S 1018 | Related bill | May 18, 2011: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. |

Summary (as of Apr 13, 2011)

Defense Sexual Trauma Response Oversight and Good Governance Act (Defense STRONG Act) - Amends the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 to require the Director of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office to be appointed from general or flag officers or Department of Defense (DOD) employees in a comparable Senior Executive Service position.

Requires the assignment within each military brigade or equivalent unit level of at least one full-time Sexual Assault Response Coordinator and one full-time Sexual Assault Victim Advocate, allowing the Secretary of the military department concerned to assign additional coordinators and/or advocates based on the demographics or needs of the unit. Allows only members of the Armed Forces (members) or DOD civilian personnel to be assigned as coordinators or advocates as of October 1, 2013. Directs the Secretary of Defense to establish a professional training and certification program for such coordinators and advocates.

Entitles any member, or dependent of a member, who is the victim of a sexual assault to legal assistance provided by a military legal assistance counsel and coordinator and advocate services, regardless of whether the member elects unrestricted or restricted (confidential) reporting of the assault. Makes privileged any communications between a member or dependent and a coordinator, advocate, legal counsel, or person staffing a helpline.

Directs the Secretary to establish a system for tracking and maintaining for at least 100 years any medical, investigative, and other records prepared or obtained by DOD in connection with a sexual assault involving a member or dependent. Requires permanent access to such records by the victim.

Requires the transfer from the Secretary to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) of certain medical records in anticipation of a member's discharge, release, retirement, or medical treatment.

Provides for the expedited consideration of, and priority for, an application by victims of sexual assault for a permanent change of station or unit transfer based on humanitarian conditions.

Requires each military department Secretary to develop a curriculum to provide sexual assault prevention and response training and education for members and civilian employees of that department.

Directs the Secretary to: (1) provide for the inclusion of a sexual assault prevention and response training module at each level of professional military education, and (2) require managers of specialty skills associated with first responders to integrate sexual assault response training in initial and recurring first responder training courses.

Actions Timeline

- **May 18, 2011:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.
- **Apr 13, 2011:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 13, 2011:** Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services.